

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

After entry of the foregoing amendment, Claims 1-53 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 3, 7, 11, 13, 17, 21, 26, 30, 31, 35, 37, 38, and 40-43 are amended; and Claims 44-53 are added by the present amendment. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, the drawings were objected to; Claims 3, 7, 13, 17, 21, 30, 35, 37 and 40-43 were objected to because of minor informalities; Claims 1-20, 31-33, 35-35, 38-40, and 42-43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,342,900 to Ejima et al. (hereinafter “Ejima”); Claims 21, 23-30, 34, 37, and 41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Ejima and in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,333,027 to Matsushima; and Claim 22 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Ejima in view of Matsushima and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,486,893 to Tagaki.

Regarding the objection to the drawings, Figures 3-6 are amended in view of the Examiner’s comments. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

Regarding the objection to Claims 3, 7, 13, 17, 21, 30, 35, 37, and 40-43, those claims are amended in view of the Examiner’s comments. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to those claims be withdrawn.

Addressing now the rejection of 1-43, summarized above, as anticipated by or unpatentable over Ejima, those rejections are respectfully traversed.

Though amended independent Claims 1, 7, 11, 17, 21, 26, 30, 31, 37, and 38 are different in scope and/or statutory category, each of those claims recites structure or

operations that turn on a display, without user input, to display an image after the same is recorded. The remaining claims depend from Claims 1, 7, 11, 17, 21, 26, 30, 31, 37, and 38.

As noted in Applicants' "Discussion of the Background", some digital cameras employ optical viewfinders, such that the display can be turned off to conserve power that would be otherwise consumed by a display-type viewfinder. Conventionally, such cameras suffer at least two deficiencies. First, after the photograph is taken, the operator must "turn on" the display to view the recorded image. Second, after viewing the recorded image, the operator must turn off the display to conserve power prior to a subsequent operation.¹

Applicants' Figure 2 illustrates a non-limiting example as to how the claimed features address the first problem of such background cameras. As shown, after an image is photographed S1, the display is automatically turned on S2 to display the photographed image.

The outstanding Office Action cites Ejima as teaching each feature of Claims 1, 7, 11, 17, 21, 26, 30, 31, 37, and 38, with the exception of citing Matsushima as teaching an auto bracketing mode; and cites Tagaki as teaching the display of a second static frame. However, Ejima's device does not turn on a display after a photograph is taken. Rather, since Ejima's device employs an LCD as a viewfinder, the LCD remains on before, during, and after the photograph is taken. Matsushima and Tagaki do not cure this deficiency of Ejima.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1-43, summarized above, as anticipated by or unpatentable over Ejima be withdrawn.

Claims 44-53 are added to recite more detailed aspects of the present invention. By turning off the display of a recorded image, without user input, when a predetermined time has elapsed,² the added features of those claims address the second above-noted problem of

¹ Specification, page 2, line 27 – page 3, line 1.

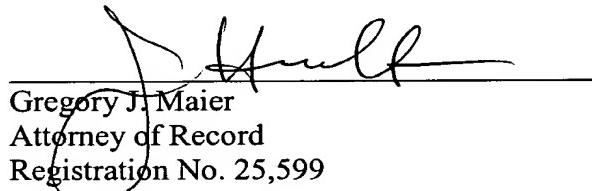
² For support, see Applicants' Figure 2, steps S3 and S4.

conventional cameras. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 44-53 further distinguish over the applied references.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Fig. 3-6. These sheets, which include Fig. 3-6, replace the original sheets including Fig. 3-6.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet